

CMAQ Project Selection Committee
September 28, 1999
Meeting Summary

1. FY 2000 Proposed Program

The staff proposed FY 2000 CMAQ program was distributed for consideration. Mr. Kopec summarized the proposal. He reported that the VOC ranking was used as the primary criteria in developing the program and noted that project cost, project readiness and prior programming of other project phases also was taken into consideration. The proposed program is balanced by category – projects were selected from each category and no category was 100% funded. Highway projects comprise 46% of the proposed program, transit projects comprise 45%, and other project types (primarily bike/ped projects and a project submitted by IEPA) total 9%. The program is more geared toward construction than some of the past programs. Mr. Kopec reviewed the projects selected in each of the categories, explaining the rationale for selections and non-selections. He concluded his summary of the proposed program by noting the prior commitments for FY 2000 funding for the Franklin Park/Grand Avenue overpass, the Pace Vanpool project, and Metra's 93rd Street Station project. Mr. Kopec also reminded the Committee of its commitment of FY 2001 funds to the Franklin Park/Grand Avenue overpass project for \$3.4 million. The floor was then open for Committee and audience comment on the staff proposed program.

Mayor Schielke asked questions about three projects: the Downers Grove/Belmont Avenue grade separation, the city of Chicago Mayor's Office of Workforce Development (MOWD) project, and the Tinley Park Metra Station relocation project. Mr. Weseman noted that the Downers Grove project had support from both highway and transit operators, and that the CMAQ funds would help to leverage other funds for this project. The need for this project was discussed extensively during the previous CMAQ cycle. Mr. Kopec noted that the MOWD project proposal was probably more suited to the Job Access and Reverse Commute program and said staff would work with the City in refining the air quality benefits of the project proposal. Both Mr. Weseman and Mr. Hoff discussed the Tinley Park project noting that not all worthy projects receive funding. However, most good projects tend to be resubmitted and eventually receive funding.

Mr. Hankey from Hoffman Estates mentioned that the Metra shuttle bus project was really an initiative from the business community and had financial support from the Prairie Stone TMA. He noted that the ridership figures used might be low based upon the experience of the Lake-Cook Road shuttle. Staff committed to review these numbers with the project sponsor.

Mr. Nagar of Metro commented on the Evanston Ridge Avenue signal interconnect project. Although Evanston received funding in the last cycle for engineering, they thought both engineering and construction were committed. This not being the case,

no funds are available for construction and engineering has not begun. The Committee offered several suggestions including completing the engineering and breaking up the project into smaller, more easily funded phases.

On a motion by Mayor Schielke, seconded by Mr. Buehler, the proposed program was unanimously accepted and released for public review and comment.

2. Discussion of Items for Future Agendas

Mr. Murtha reviewed items that the CMAQ Committee will need to discuss at a future meeting. These items include recommending a minimum project cost, an analysis of CMAQ projects with unfunded construction, the status of before and after studies, particularly for pedestrian facilities, a follow-up to the discussion of funds transferred to FTA, and the status of CMAQ projects as TCMs.

3. Other Business

Mr. Kopec and the Committee extended their thanks to Andy Plummer for his work in building the foundation of a consensus-driven CMAQ program development process.

Ms. Berry reported that a post card announcing the comment period on the proposed FY 2000 CMAQ program will be released. In addition, an announcement and the proposed program will be included on the CATS Web site. The Communications Division will develop a press release. Ms. Berry asked any Committee member that would like a particular project highlighted in the press release to see her after the meeting.

4. The next meeting was scheduled for November 10th at 1:00 PM. to review any comments and to address the items discussed in agenda item 2.